



November 9, 2011

Legislative Program Review and Investigations Committee
State Capitol Room 506
Hartford, CT 06106
Attention: Janelle Stevens and Brian Beisel

Dear Committee Members:

As Dean of the School of Education at the University of Bridgeport (UB), I would like to affirm the central role that the State Department of Education (SDE) plays in Connecticut regarding teacher preparation/licensure. Under Nancy Pugliesi, SDE represents a cadre of extremely qualified professionals who provide invaluable services to teacher candidates in the state. It would be difficult to replicate the depth and breadth of knowledge concerning certification matters that these individuals possess.

Over the years, UB has come to rely heavily on SDE for its professionalism and direction. We have found every individual in the department to be articulate, fair, accurate and extremely accessible. Questions concerning certification issues are handled promptly and efficiently. The consultants of the department invariably have significant insights to specific issues that may arise with regard to complicated certification questions.

It would be extremely difficult to replace these talented individuals. I would like to give my highest recommendation to the SDE under Nancy Pugliese for the services that it performs for teachers and teacher candidates in the state of Connecticut, as well as institutions of higher education.

Yours truly,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Allen Cook".

Allen Cook, Ph.D.
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